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LETTER DATED 5 DECEMBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit enclosed the report prepared by the competent authorities of Liechtenstein pursuant to Security Council resolutions 771 (1992) and 780 (1992), by which States were called upon to collate substantiated information relating to the violations of humanitarian law, including grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, and to make this information available to the Security Council.

I therefore request that this letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Claudia FRITSCHE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

REPORT

submitted
by Liechtenstein
pursuant to
Security Council resolutions 771 (1992) and 780 (1992)

Introduction		**Page 3**
Part I:	**Villages and forced displacement of persons**	**Page 5**
	KOZARAC	**Page 5**
	CARAKOVO	**Page 7**
	KOZARVSA	**Page 8**
	KONCARI	**Page 8**
	PRIJEDOR	**Page 8**
	BANJALUKA	**Page 12**
	JAJCE	**Page 12**
Part II:	**Detention Camp**	**Page 12**
	KERATERM	**Page 12**
	OMARSKA	**Page 15**
	TRNOPOLJE	**Page 16**
Part III:	**Incidents during flight**	**Page 19**

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INTRODUCTION
to the report submitted by Liechtenstein pursuant to Security Council resolutions 771 (1992) and 780 (1992)

The Security Council, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 771 (1992) and in paragraph 1 of its resolution 780 (1992), calls upon States to collate substantiated information relating to the violations of humanitarian law, including grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, and to make this information available to the Security Council.

The present report is submitted to the Security Council in response to this request. It has been compiled on the basis of interviews conducted with nine refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina. All these refugees are originally either from Prijedor or from one of the surrounding villages. The interviews were conducted by individuals with psychological training who had previously been especially instructed for this task.

It seemed useful to divide the report into three parts, with one reporting events which took place in villages, a second dealing with acts witnessed or experienced by the witnesses in detention camps, and a third with incidents which occurred while the witnesses were fleeing. Given this approach, the report does not reflect the statements of the witnesses in their entirety; rather, it contains elements of their statements under the three sections.

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In order to protect the witnesses and their relatives and to respect the principle of confidentiality, the names of the witnesses are not mentioned in the report. Moreover, victims of violations of international humanitarian law, as well as persons who are alleged to have committed such crimes, are referred only to in the report by their initials. However, the competent authorities of Liechtenstein are in possession of these data, which are contained in the records of the interviews, and they can be made available upon request.

In conclusion, it must be stated that everything in this report stems directly from the statements made by the witnesses in the course of the interviews, and that it contains no additions or interpretations by the competent authorities of Liechtenstein.

New York, 10 October 1994

Part I: Villages and forced displacement of persons

KOZARAC (and surrounding villages)

Witness 205

The witness was together with a group of approximately eighty people. A Serbian soldier asked who the leader of the group was. When K., a neighbour of the witness, replied that he was the leader of the group, the soldier cut his throat. Afterwards, the group was made to go to the house of A.M., which had a large garage. All the men of the group were made to go into the garage. The witness heard screaming and shooting, and none of the men came back. Many of the Serbian soldiers were disguised, and the witness recognized only a certain S.

Witness 203

On 24 May 1992, Kozarac was attacked. The witness was at the time in Carakovo, near Prijedor, and saw Kozarac going up in flames. The next day, Radio Prijedor announced that the man who had attacked the Serbian military police should surrender at the police station in Prijedor. Otherwise, Carakovo would be utterly destroyed. Panic ensued and everybody fled to the mountains.

Witness 204

- When Kozarac was taken by the Serbian forces, the Serbs immediately killed everyone they met. At the same time, houses were plundered and set on fire. These acts were committed by Serbian inhabitants of

the village. Among those plundering houses, the witness recognized Z.V., nicknamed Z. This Z.V. also set fire to the body of V.J., who, according to an assumption of the witness, had previously been killed by another Tchetnik, R.N.Z.

- The men who had surrendered to the Serbian forces were taken to the school premises and made to stand against the wall, their hands above their heads. They were beaten until they were completely exhausted and then taken to Keraterm. After they had spent some time there, they were taken to Omarska.

- Another army unit came from the direction of Banjaluka. This unit was composed of locals as well as strangers. Some of them called themselves "C.'s group". This C., a taxi-driver from Omarska was, according to the witness, one of the key participants in the acts committed in Kozarac. He was given an award for liberating the highest number of villages in the region.

- Serbs killed people by beating them with blunt instruments. Those who committed these acts had their faces disguised with stockings, but the witness nevertheless recognized D.T. and R.D., nicknamed D.

- The witness saw S.J's throat being cut.

- The witness saw S.K., commanding officer of the detention camp in Trnopolje, setting fire to two buildings in Kozarac.

CARAKOVO (near Kozarac)

Witness 203

- The witness saw the mother, wife and grandfather of S.H. (the head of the local civil defence force) killed by gunshots, and his children were cut with razor-blades. These acts were committed by M.J., former bus driver on a local line near Prijedor. The witness was told by neighbours that this M.J., who was a Tchetnik, had also killed the wife and the children of S.E..

- When Carakovo was taken by the Serbian forces, at around 4.30 a.m., a woman living in the neighbourhood of the witness was forced by Serbian soldiers to give them some jewelery she had previously buried. Then they put her back into the house and burnt it down. The neighbours later found a piece of gold in the hand of the woman's body. The witness knew the woman, but did not want to mention her name.

- The Serbian forces had captured the Khoja and 15 men and seriously wounded them. The captures were lying in front of the mosque. The surbs then set fire to a big carpet, which then fell down on these people who were not able to run away. The witness and some other people wanted to extinguish the fire, but they were shot at from the dome of the mosque. So the wounded men caught fire and burned up.

- The night the Serbian forces entered Carakovo, many people were killed, including the husband, the father-in-law and two uncles of one the witness's friends and a woman, her child, her father and her father-in-law. The witness recognized among the Tchetniks men who

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had gone to school with her. They held a knife to her 9 month-old baby and asked for gold. The witness only wanted to mention the name of K.M. from Omarska, who raped a woman 65 to 67 years old.

KOZARVSA (near Prijedor)

Witness 202

When Kozarosa was taken by the Serbian forces, the mosque was set on fire.

KONCARI (near Kozarac)

Witness 204

- The witness recognized M., secretary in the Office for Internal Affairs. This M. beat up and kicked people indiscriminately. C., a policeman from Omarska, beat people with a truncheon and a rifle.

PRIJEDOR (and surrounding villages)

Witness 203

- The men who had surrendered to the Serbian forces were lined up on the big red bridge in Prijedor. They were made to sit down and their toes were cut. They were then made to lie down on their stomachs and their fingernails were pulled out. Afterwards, the Chetniks wounded them with gunshots and threw them into the river Sana.

- The witness saw in the river Sana the dead body of her father-in-law's uncle, who had been killed by R. from Tukovi. Among the Tchetniks in Prijedor, the witness also recognized M., the son of R. from Tukovi, and M.J., who has been referred to above. According to the witness, these three persons raped women, but she was unwilling to mention the names of these women.

Witness 206

- The witness and his brother were made to go to the local police headquarters. They entered a court-yard and saw there approximately one hundred men who had been forced to stand with their hands above their heads, and the witness could see that they had been beaten. A man called Z.S. who was in the court-yard beat the witness and his brother-in-law with his fists and kicked him in the kidneys. The witness was also beaten with a truncheon.

- When the witness was crossing the street, a car stopped, and a man called G.B. got out of the car and asked the witness where he was living. When the witness turned round to point out the house where he lived, G.B. beat him with the butt of his rifle. More men got out of the car, and they all beat the witness and kicked him. Afterwards, he was taken in the trunk of the car to the building housing the Government offices, where, according to the witness, civilians were tortured.

- According to the witness, Muslims and Croats were not given medical treatment at the local hospitals.

- The witness decided to leave Prijedor. He had to go to the local police station to say that he was leaving voluntarily, and to give all his property to the Serb Republic.

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- One of the persons involved in the crimes committed in Prijedor was, according to the witness, D. from Tukovi. He was involved in acts of "ethnic cleansing" in Hambarine, Biscani, Rakovcani and Kozarac and also in massacres, during which around 250 young people were killed. This D. also sexually abused the wife of the witness.

- The witness was taken away from Prijedor with a group of other people. Before they left, they had to give all their jewellery and all their money to the local Tchetniks.

Witness 210

- Prijedor was attacked by Serbian forces, and Serbian soldiers entered the houses, threatened the people and forced them to give their jewellery. The witness was told that soldiers would cut off the fingers and ears of women, who were wearing rings or earrings. Among the persons stealing jewellery and plundering, the witness recognized B.D., Z.Z. and R.Z.

- A young man about 19 years old was beaten up with rifles by Serbian forces and then forced to go to a stable. No one was allowed to enter the stable for several days, and the young man was finally found dead. He had been stubbed with knives and shot dead. The people of Prijedor were allowed to bury his body only after several days.

Witness 217

- Prijedor and the surrounding villages were attacked by Serbian Forces on 20 May 1992. The husband of the witness became very ill two

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days after these attacks began. He was vomiting blood, and there was blood in his urine, but the Serbians did not allow him to receive medical treatment at the local hospital.

- Every night Serbian guards killed some people. They knocked at the doors of houses, in which people were living, pillaged the houses and killed people. The witness therefore went to the nearby forest to spend the nights there, and would returning to her house only in the morning. One morning, the witness found that her neighbour's house had been burnt down. She found the body of her neighbour inside the house.

- On 23 July 1992, the witness's husband and his uncle were arrested and taken away by Tchetniks. They never came back and the witness found the body of her husband on 27 July. He had been shot. The people of the village were not allowed to touch the bodies of those who had been killed.

- On 24 July 1992, a man called B. pillaged, together with some other Tchetniks, the house of the witness's father-in-law, who was a wealthy man.

- On 27 July 1992, the witness's father-in-law, together with some other men, was taken to a garage by R.J. The witness could only hear these men screaming; the next day, she found their dead bodies.

- On 31 July, several hundred people were transferred to the Omarska detention camp, including the witness's father and brother. The whereabouts and fate of these persons are unknown.

BANJALUKA

Witness 204

- N.V., a member of the Tchetnik special unit, was, according to the witness, involved in the killing of two persons.

JAJCE

Witness 281

Jajce was attacked for the first time on 23 May 1993, and after 1 July it was completely cut off from the rest of the country. The main targets of the Serb attacks were hospitals, factories and churches, but also the houses of civilians.

Part II: Detention camps

KERATERM

Witness 201

- The witness spent 15 - 20 days in the Keraterm detention camp, a former pottery factory. The detainees were given no food for several days, and there was a shortage of water.

- In a separate room, people were asphyxiated with gas. The witness does not know what sort of gas this was.

- Whenever a detainee had to go to the toilet, he was beaten with rifles and fists and kicked. Young people were beaten particularly frequently.

- The witness saw a father who was forced to take his son to the soldiers, and the son was shot dead before his eyes.

Witness 205

- When the witness arrived at Keraterm together with a group of people, Serbian soldiers formed a lane and beat the detainees with rifles and their fists and kicked them.

- The witness recognized in the camp a man called D.D., who had previously been arrested and tried by a court in Germany.

- The witness also recognized a man called Z.C., who called out all men from the village Kamicani. They had to lie down on their stomachs, and Z.C. beat them and stepped on them. Then he called out ten men of this group, and these men never came back.

- The detainees were given very little food and very little water, and they had no opportunity of washing themselves. The detainees were beaten up at random. A young man called V.B. was beaten up particularly often. His thighs were stabbed with knives and he was not able to walk any more.

- A man called S.B., the nephew of the wealthy head of a democratic party, was beaten to death by the soldiers.

- The detainees were crammed into very small rooms. Since it was very hot, the situation became unbearable and the detainees therefore broke open the door. The soldiers fired at them with automatic weapons and killed them.

- The witness, together with other detainees, were made to carry the bodies of about 150 people to trucks. The Serbian soldiers asked which of the detainees were wounded. These people thought they would be given medical treatment, but they were made to stand beside the trucks and were shot dead by the Serbian soldiers.

Witness 206

- There was only one litre of water per day for 50 detainees, and the detainees were given food only once a day. At night, when the new shift took over, the soldiers of the new shift had with them a list containing the names of certain prisoners. These persons were called out and had to leave the cell. Most of them did not come back, and those who did had been severely beaten. The other detainees were not allowed to assist those who had been beaten and wounded.

- The commanding officer in Keraterm was S.K. Among the other persons who ill-treated prisoners, the witness recognized also S.(?) M. from Cikote and a cab-driver nicknamed D.

- The uncle of the witness's wife, named I., was deputy president of the SDA party. I. and his nephew E. were beaten to death in Keraterm.

Witness 217

According to the witness, around 400 people, most of whom were from Carakovo, were killed at the Keraterm detention camp in June and July 1992.

OMARSKA

Witness 201

- The witness spent approximately 25 days in Omarska. The detainees had no opportunity of washing themselves or changing their clothes.

- People were burnt alive with tyres that had been set on fire.

- There was a special place where men were taken and forced to bite other men's penises

- The name of the commanding officer in Omarska was Z.Z.

Witness 203

S.H. from Carakovo had established a civil defence force in his village so that the people could protect themselves. They wanted to attack Prijedor (which had previously been taken by the Serbian forces) in order to free it again, but they were not successful. Later the witness saw on television, on the "Slika Na Sliku" programme that they had hung this S.H. from a wire entanglement.

TRNOPOLJE

Witness 201

- In the camp of Trnopolje, soldiers raped women and girls, sometimes young girls at the age of 10 to 12 years. The witness's daughter was among the girls that were raped. A woman who tried to resist the soldiers was shot dead.

Witness 202

A woman called H. was shot dead by a soldier when she tried to get water for her child.

The witness saw the dead body of a young girl who had been beaten and raped. During the evenings and nights, the soldiers often looked for girls or women and took them with them.

Witness 203

- The witness spent only one day in Trnopolje. She was told to go to the Red Cross Station, because she could get milk there. A woman who had gone there before in order to get milk was killed in front of the Red Cross station, so the witness did not go.

Witness 204

- During the time in Trnopolje, Serbians often took away women, especially young women, and brought them back after a certain time. These women had apparently been beaten, they were bruised and

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half-naked but the doctors in the camp were not allowed to assist them. Several of these women, however, never came back. Among the doctors in the camp was J.H. who was later taken to Omarska, where he was shot dead together with several other people.

- The detainees were given practically no food and very little water. A lot of them suffered from dysentery. The chambers and the hallways were over-crowded with people, and the hallways were flooded with urine and faeces.

- The person responsible for the acts committed in Trnopolje was S.K., because the others acted upon his orders.

- The son of M.K., the son of S.N. and the son of Z.R. were involved in the killing of six men, who were tortured with a wire through their tongues and then beaten to death with blunt instruments near a mill in Trnopolje.

- Among the Tchetniks in Trnopolje, the witness recognized also Z.V., his brother R., N.K., N.L., G.L., Z.I., and N.S., the son of S.S. There were other persons by the last name of S. and V., whose first names the witness does not remember, and a man called L., nick-named D. All these persons took away detainees and tortured or killed them.

- The witness also recognized a woman from N.L., whose name was P. and who was involved in the plundering of villages.

- Among the people plundering villages, the witness also recognized persons normally employed in Switzerland.

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Witness 205

- The commanding officer in Trnopolje was S.K., whose deputy is D.D. According to the witness, these were the persons responsible for the acts committed in Trnopolje.

- There was a man in the camp, allegedly a doctor, whose right hand was missing. He is supposed to have killed many people in the Omarska camp.

- The Serbian soldiers called upon seven young people, all members of the family F. The witness later found the dead bodies of these seven people. They had been beaten up and their tongues were tied together with wire.

Witness 210

- The witness spent about two and a half months in the detention camp. The detainees were not given food in the beginning, but later on an elderly man, who was subsequently killed by Tchetniks, prepared food for them. The witness also witnessed the killing of a man called H.S.

- Detainees asked for permission to go to the village in order to get food. They were given special permits to leave the camp, indicating a time by which they had to be back. Everybody who returned to the camp after this indicated time was killed.

- The commanding officer in Trnopolje was S.K..

III. Incidents during flight

Witness 203

- When the witness was fleeing from Trnoplje to Travnik, two soldiers entered the truck, which was over-crowded with refugees, and ordered them to hand over all their jewellery and all German currency they had on them, because they needed the money to buy meat for the men being kept in detention camps. The witness gave them the three rings she was wearing. The people on the truck were not given any food or water, and they were suffocating.

- When the witness fled together with a large number of people from the Vlasic mountains to Travnik, grenades were fired at this group by Tchetniks.

Witness 204

- When people were transferred from Kozarac to Trnopolie, they had to get into a bus, with a normal capacity of 50, but many more people were made to get into this bus. The heating system was turned on to make the situation even more unbearable. Several elderly people died under these conditions in the bus, some people suffocated in the heat. The bus drove to the soccer stadium in Trnopolje, where people were shot at while leaving the bus.

Witness 281

While the witness was fleeing with a group of women and children from Jajce to Tomis'avgrad, their trucks were often fired at by Serbian forces.

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Witness 217

While the witness was in Prijedor, the Serbians announced that the Muslims were to gather at the Inkovi soccer stadium in order to be transferred to regions under the control of the Bosnian government or to Croatia. Red Cross staff who wanted to accompany the convoy, were not allowed to do so, and were threatened by the Tchetniks. The Tchetniks took all the money and jewellery from the refugees and threatened to kill them.